

IURC News Release

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The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission is ready as Indiana becomes the first mid-west state with Video Franchise Authority

Today the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) approved two General Administrative Orders (GAOs) as it moves forward with the implementation of the Telecommunications Reform Bill, HEA 1279, passed by the 2006 General Assembly and signed by Governor Mitch Daniels in March.

GAO 2006-4 establishes the process, instructions and application for state issued video franchises which, pursuant to statute, will be issued by the IURC beginning July 1. This GAO also provides procedures to change existing certificates of franchise authority within Indiana.

GAO-2006-3 puts in place administrative procedures for a telephone company to relinquish its Provider of Last Resort obligation and establishes the procedure for a new carrier to be appointed as the provider of last resort in the un-served territory.

The Provider of Last Resort is a telecom carrier that receives universal service funds, and as such has accepted the responsibility to provide basic local telephone service to all customers in its designated service territory regardless of whether physical plants are present; even if it means the successor provider must secure facilities to do so should the current service provider, usually the incumbent, leave the market.

IURC Chairman David Lott Hardy says the actions taken by the commission today "advance consumer access to affordable communication services and ensures regulation consistent with a competitive environment."

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